

PATENT

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated August 10, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 21, 22, 23, 25, and 28 have been amended. New Claim 34 has been added.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the opportunity to clarify the above-referenced Office Action and to discuss the claims as currently amended by telephone on November 9, 2005. As discussed with the Examiner in the telephone interview, Claim 1 has been amended to define the invention as a valve seat assembly for a control valve of a vehicle brake system. The valve seat assembly includes a valve seat body defining an axis. The valve seat body has a valve passageway extending through a portion of the valve seat body. A groove is formed circumferentially in an outer surface of the valve seat body. The groove defines a substantially axially extending first groove surface. A bore extends between the first groove surface and the valve passageway to provide fluid communication between the first groove surface and the valve passageway. A substantially resilient seal is slidably mounted against the first groove surface. The seal is slidably movable between a first position substantially covering the bore and a second position exposing the bore to permit the flow of fluid within the groove to said valve passageway through the bore.

Similarly to Claim 1, Claims 11 and 21 have been amended to clarify, respectively, that the groove defines "a substantially axially extending first groove surface" and that the seal is "slidably mounted against the first groove surface."

As noted by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action and as discussed in the above-referenced telephone interview, the German reference DE 19829124 does not disclose a seal that is slidably mounted against the groove surface as defined in amended Claims 1, 11, and 21. In the Lloyd et al. reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,019,441, the "seal" 102 is not slidably mounted against a substantially axially extending first groove surface as defined in amended Claims 1, 11, and 21. Thus, it is believed that amended Claims 1, 11, and 21, and Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-25, and 27-30, depending respectfully therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.